



**DELAWARE HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

Division of Public Health

LABORATORY

May 3, 2016

Dear Colleague,

The Delaware Public Health Laboratory will begin to conduct risk assessments for all Delaware hospital laboratories starting the end of July 2016. As you may be aware, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in conjunction with the Association of Public Health Laboratories have been working diligently to provide templates, in-house training and external training (American Biological Safety Association-International) for all the newly hired State Biosafety Officials. These State Biosafety Officials will be performing biological risk assessments at hospital laboratories in their states for Ebola and other emerging infectious diseases.

Risk assessments will be performed for all BSL2 and BSL3 microbiology and other laboratory sections found in a hospital setting (hematology, chemistry, serology, urinalysis, blood bank, etc.) As indicated in previous emails, blood, urine and other laboratory specimens which may contain highly pathogenic organisms could be submitted to the laboratory for testing. A biological safety risk assessment will provide recommendations on how to limit possible exposure to laboratory staff if a specimen is positive for Ebola or other pathogens. The recommendations provided by the risk assessment will help to limit exposure, although they cannot eliminate risk/exposure totally.

These biological risks assessments are recommended for all hospital laboratories. Please contact Marion Fowler at marion.fowler@state.de.us or 1-302-223-1520 to set up a date for the assessment.

Sincerely,

Awele N. Maduka-Ezeh, MD, MPH
Medical Director
Delaware Division of Public Health

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